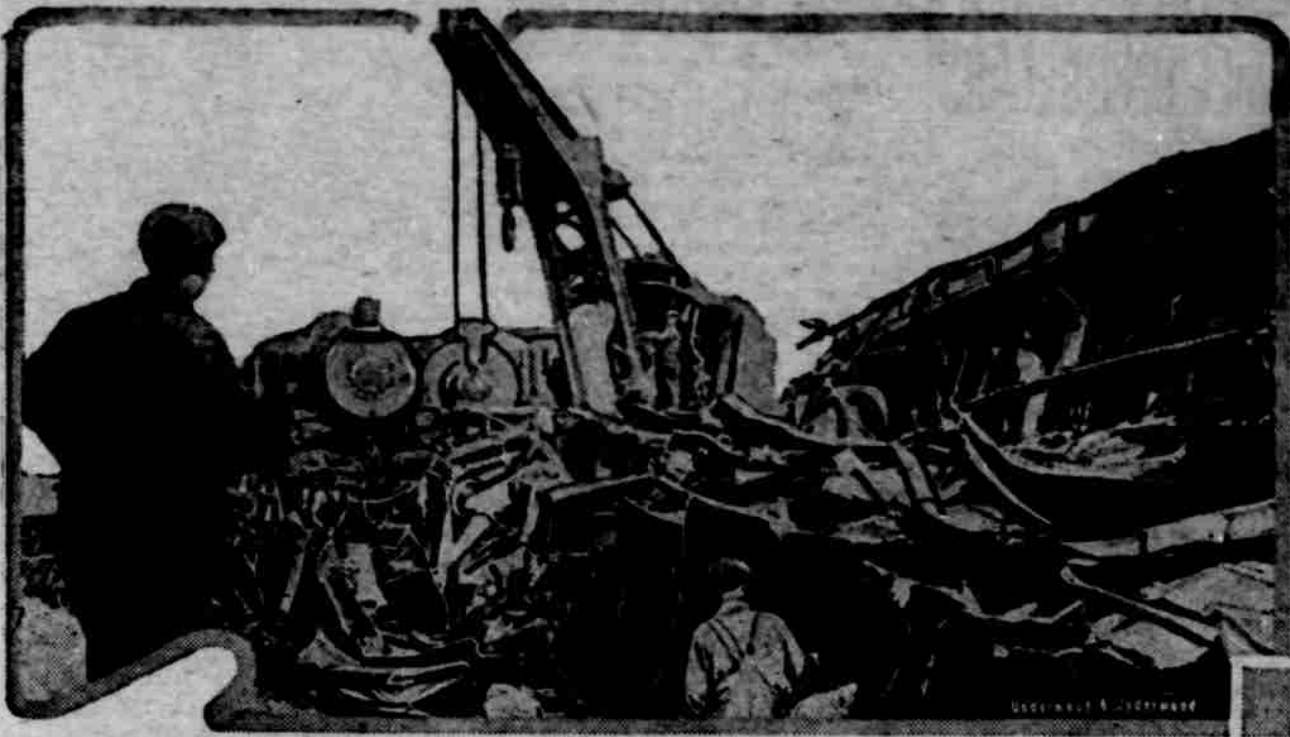


Railway Wreck in Which Eight Persons Were Killed



Eight persons were killed and sixty others injured when an American Express special crashed into a Buffalo-New York express train near Schenectady. The photograph shows the wreckage of the sleeping cars and workers searching for the bodies of victims.

Drum-Head Election of the Ancients and Honorables



Scene during the annual drum-head election of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Boston, a society that has been in existence since Colonial days.



THOUSANDS of anxious citizens had gathered in the streets of Philadelphia where congress was assembled, for it was known that the final vote on the Declaration of Independence would be taken that day. Since the hour of the assembly of congress the old bellman of the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall had been in the steeple. He had placed his little grandson at the door to give him the word when the announcement should be made. As hour after hour passed by and no announcement came the old man shook his head and said sadly, "They will never do it."

Suddenly a shout came up from below and there stood the little blue-eyed lad clapping his hands for joy and shouting, "Ring, grandfather, ring!"

So the old grandfater swung the big iron tongue and the Liberty Bell, clanging 100 times, sent its brazen notes throughout the land proclaiming that the United Colonies were and of right ought to be free and independent, and there was a tumult of rejoicing in the city.

This in effect is the first Fourth of July, as many an American schoolboy has been taught it. It reads well and there is a thrill in it. But it has one large fault—it isn't true. As a matter of fact there wasn't any real "Fourth of July Celebration" at all in 1776. There couldn't be, for the reason that the Declaration of Independence was a continuing operation that lasted pretty much the whole summer of that year. Incidentally, its culmination was July 2, instead of July 4. Moreover, it was not until 1777 that July 4 was fixed upon as "the day we celebrate." And it was in 1777 in Philadelphia that the first Fourth of July celebration was held.

To get the history of the Declaration of Independence straight, we must start with the fact that the American Revolution was not begun for the achievement of independence. The American colonists began with the idea of securing the right guaranteed them as Englishmen by Magna Charta, the Bill of Rights, and their own charters. The idea of separation and independence was an afterthought and an outgrowth of the hostilities faced by the British at Lexington and Concord.

The historic declaration of the citizens of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, in May, 1775, was one of the earliest manifestations of the trend of public opinion. In January of 1776, Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" appeared and gave the movement a tremendous impetus. June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, under instructions from Virginia, presented to the continental congress his famous resolution which reads:

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved;

"That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign alliances;

"That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective colonies for their consideration and approbation."

Here, in fact, was the Declaration of Independence in a nutshell. June 8, congress went into a committee of whole to consider the resolution. For various reasons the delegates were not

all ready to vote on it. June 10, congress postponed final consideration for 3 weeks. June 11, congress appointed a committee of five to draw up the Declaration of Independence. Lee was naturally made chairman, but he had been called home by the illness of his wife. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia was made chairman and his colleagues were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert L. Livingston of New York. The committee instructed Jefferson to write out a draft of the Declaration. Jefferson did so. The committee made some changes and Jefferson then made a clean copy. Congress reassembled July 1, and the Lee resolution was passed July 2. How this action was then regarded is shown by John Adams' letter to his wife, in which he said:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, bells, bonfires, and illumination from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

Jefferson then presented the report of the Declaration committee, the document now known as the Declaration of Independence. It was adopted the afternoon of July 4. John Hancock, as president of the congress, affixed his signature. Charles Thompson countersigned as secretary. It was then printed and sent off to the several colonies. July 15, the clerk was instructed to prepare the document for signatures. Properly engrossed, it was signed by all who were present—50 members. Others signed in September and one member, Colonel McKean, did not sign until 1781. Seven members, for one reason or another, never did sign it.

Pennsylvania, being the first colony to receive its Declaration of Independence, was the first formally to make public the action of congress. July 8, a general election day in Pennsylvania, was chosen as the time. A crowd of about 1,000 gathered near the platform erected by the Philosophical society seven years before from which Bittenhouse observed the transit of Venus. Mounted upon this, Colonel John Nixon read the document in his big voice and winsome Deborah Logan, leaning over the wall of the Norris homestead, which was upon the present site of the customs house, heard him quite plainly. Both she and Charles Biddle, writing of the scene in their diaries, make the comment that "few respectable persons were present." This was not remarkable, for Philadelphia's wealthy class of that day was outright Tory in its sympathy and John Dickinson, Edward Biddle, Thomas Willing and the others expressed its sentiments accurately when they voted against the Lee resolution.

After the reading the crowd gave three huzzas and took down the king's arms from the state house. The bell

in the tower boomed its message, Christ church bell keeping it company and the funny old guns of the Association battery down at Old Swedes' church, roared out their salute.

The Philadelphia Fourth of July celebration of 1777 was a public demonstration, planned in advance. Fortunately we have a short contemporary account of what took place. The Pennsylvania Gazette, published weekly by John Dunlap, tells in its issue of July 9, 1777, of this first of a long line of Independence day celebrations. Here is the full account:

"Friday, the fourth instant, being the anniversary of the independence of America, was celebrated in this city with demonstrations of joy and festivity.

"About noon, all the armed ships and galleys in the river were drawn up before the city, dressed in the gayest manner, with the colors of the United States and streamers displayed. At 1 o'clock the yards being properly manned, they began the celebration of the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each of the galleys in honor of the thirteen United States.

"In the afternoon an elegant dinner was prepared for congress, to which were invited the president and supreme executive council and speaker of the assembly of this state, the general officers and colonels of the army and the members of the several continental boards who were in town. "The Hessian band of music taken in Trenton the twenty-sixth of December last attended and heightened the festivity with some fine performances suited to the joyous occasion, while a corps of British deserters taken into the service of the Continent by the State of Georgia, being drawn up before the door, filled up the intervals with feux de joie.

"After dinner a number of toasts were drunk, all breathing independence and a genuine love of liberty and commemorating the memories of those brave and worthy patriots who gallantly exposed their lives and fell gloriously in defense of freedom and the righteous cause of their country.

"Each toast was followed by a discharge of artillery and small arms and a suitable piece of music by the Hessian band. The glorious Fourth of July was reiterated three times, accompanied with triple discharges of cannon and small arms.

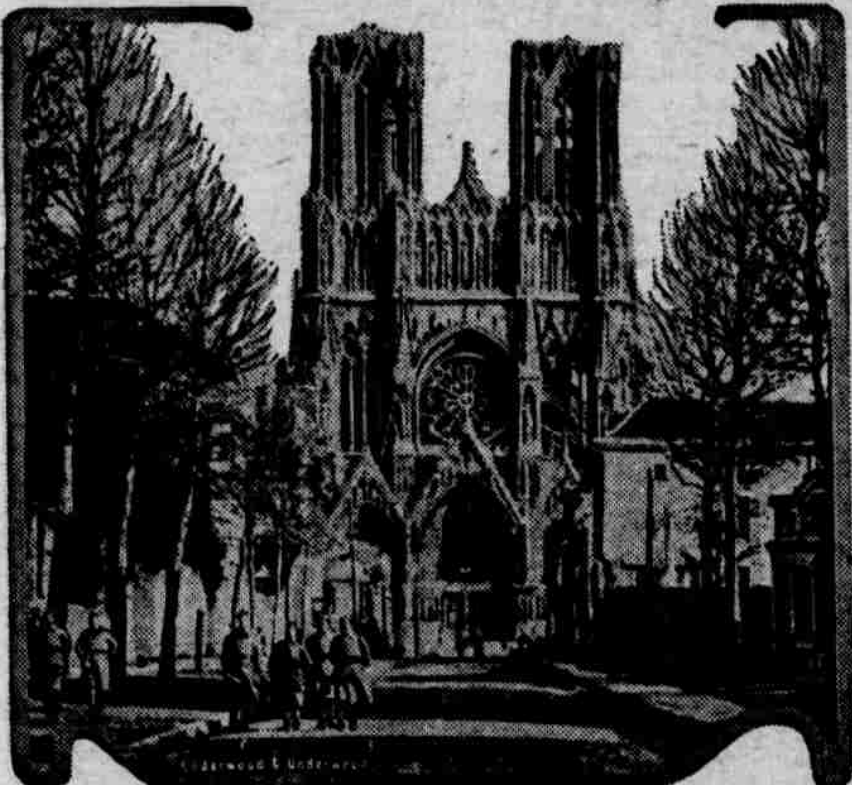
"Toward evening several troops of horse and corps of artillery and a brigade of North Carolina forces which was in town on its way to join the grand army were drawn up in Second street and reviewed by congress and the general officers.

"The evening was closed with the ringing of bells and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the common, and the city was beautifully illuminated.

"Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum and the face of joy and gladness was universal.

"Thus may the Fourth of July, that glorious and ever-memorable day, be celebrated through America by the hosts of freedom from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and amen."

Reims Cathedral in Use Once More



The famous old Reims Cathedral is being used for service once more. This picture shows the beautiful old building, battle-scarred and shell-torn, as it appeared early in April when thousands of visitors attended Easter worship within its walls.

ITALIAN ACE A VISITOR



Col. Colon Piccolo, regarded as Italy's premier ace, is now visiting the United States. He is credited with bringing down 40 German and Austrian planes and three dirigibles.

SPOTS FORGED CHECK



More than 350 cases of forgery in government pay checks have been nipped in the bud by Louis Albert Hill and his magnifying glass in the past year.

White House Wool for Salvation Army



Bags of wool from the White House sheep, which was given to the Salvation Army by President Wilson, to be made into clothes to aid the army's drive for funds in New York.

"Scientific" Legislators

For lack of technical knowledge, legislators are sometimes guilty of passing measures that are soon found open to severe criticism and sometimes fail to accomplish the end which was intended and desired. To overcome this condition an Australian doctor has come to the fore with a scientific first aid for legislators. He suggests that "royal commissioners of science" be appointed in each house of the Aus-

tralian parliament, who should have the right to be heard at the bar of the house on any matter in which science plays a part. They would devote their whole time to this work and be paid such salaries as would attract men of the highest talents.

Roman Way With Peace Negotiators

In the brave days of the early Roman republic the consuls might indeed negotiate and sign treaties of peace on their own responsibility. But

if the senate and people failed to ratify, the correct practice was to surrender the consuls to the enemy. Thus, according to Cicero (De Officiis III, 30) Titus Veturius and Spurius Postumius were delivered up to the Samnites, with whom they had negotiated an unsatisfactory peace. And on a much later occasion Caius Mancinus, who had negotiated a peace treaty with the Numantini which the senate failed to ratify, was on his own motion surrendered to the enemy.—New Republic.